



Matthew W. Gissendanner
Assistant General Counsel

matthew.gissendanner@scana.com

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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd
Chief Clerk/Administrator

Public Service Commission of South Carolina

101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

RE: South Carolina Electric & Gas Company – Request for “Like Facility”
Determinations Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(1)
Docket No. 2017-277-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

By Order No. 2017-670, dated October 25, 2017, in the above-referenced docket, the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) held in abeyance the request of South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (“SCE&G” or “Company”) for a “like facility determination” for the fold-in of the existing Wateree-Columbia Industrial Park 230 kV Line to the existing Hopkins 230/115 kV Substation. In its Order, the Commission requested that the Company provide additional information regarding (1) how the project is a “replacement of an existing facility” and (2) whether the Company considered other alternatives to complying with FERC’s reliability standards.

With respect to item (1), the existing Wateree-Columbia Industrial Park (“CIP”) 230 kV Line extends from the Company’s Wateree Station in Eastover, South Carolina, to the Columbia Industrial Park Substation on Bluff Road, a total distance of approximately 24 miles. For the project for which the Company requests a “like facility” determination in this docket, SCE&G plans to break the existing Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line and connect each remaining segment to the existing Hopkins Substation to ensure that SCE&G remains in compliance with applicable North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) standards. More specifically, the Company proposes to remove two existing wooden H-frame structures and an existing span of approximately 55-60 feet of electric conductor on the existing Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line (“Removed Facilities”) and replace those existing structures and conductor with 8 single circuit steel poles (2 rows of 4 poles each) and the necessary conductor to run from the point of the break along approximately 1,100 feet of new right-of-way to the Company’s existing Hopkins Substation (“Replacement Facilities”). See Attachment 1. By replacing the Removed Facilities with the Replacement Facilities, the Company will maintain its 230 kV path between Wateree Station and the CIP Substation—albeit in two segments (the Wateree-Hopkins 230 kV Line #2 and the CIP-Hopkins 230 kV Line) instead of the existing single one (the Wateree-CIP 230 kV Line); maintain an acceptable level of support to existing electrical distribution substations in the Southeast Columbia

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area; and ensure that SCE&G remains in compliance with applicable NERC standards. Based on the foregoing, the Replacement Facilities are "like facilities" for the Removed Facilities.

With respect to item (2), the Company considered the three alternatives outlined below to comply with NERC reliability standards:

Alternative A: Install an additional autobank at CIP Substation and rebuild the CIP – Hopkins 115 kV Line on single-pole double-circuit structures with 230 kV on one side and 115 kV on the other.

Alternative B (the chosen alternative): Install an additional autobank at the Hopkins Substation and fold the Wateree – CIP 230 kV Line into Hopkins Substation.

Alternative C: Rebuild the CIP – Lake Murray 115 kV Line with 1272 ACSR conductor and rebuild the CIP – Edenwood 115 kV Line with 1272 ACSR conductor from the Columbia Newspaper tap to Edenwood Substation.

Alternative B, for which a like facility determination is requested in this docket, was both the most robust from a reliability perspective and the most cost-effective from an economic perspective. As such, Alternative B was chosen as the preferred solution to ensure that SCE&G continues to comply with NERC reliability standards.

By copy of this letter, we are providing this information to counsel for the ORS.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Matthew W. Gissendanner

MWG/kms
Enclosure

cc: Jeffrey M. Nelson, Esquire
Dawn Hipp
(both via electronic mail and U.S. First Class Mail)

